

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUNICH 00767 161608Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----170225Z 062022 /13

R 161534Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8212
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 0767

EXDIS

STADIS

FOR EUR/ARMITAGE; EUR/EE/BROWN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: TENSIONS IN RL TO GENERATE NEWS STORY

1. MUNICH-BASED FREE LANCE JOURNALIST JOHN DORNBERG VISITED CONGEN TODAY AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS STORY HE IS PREPARING ON DISSENSION IN RL'S RUSSIAN SERVICE. DORNBERG INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED TO FILE STORY LATER THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT AND EXPECTED IT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE MARCH 30 BY SEVERAL US PAPERS. DORNBERG BELIEVES STORY VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO APPEAR IN "WASHINGTON STAR."

2. DORNBERG APPEARED TO BE VERY WELL BRIEFED ON RECENT INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES IN RL'S RUSSIAN SERVICE. HE IS AWARE OF RL-STAFFER'S RECOURSE TO THE COURTS, CONTROVERSY CAUSED BY RL ARMENIAN SERVICE STAFFER'S CLASH WITH DISSIDENT LEONID PLYUSH AND INTERNAL CONTROVERSIES OVER PROGRAM CONTENTS. HE IS ALSO AWARE OF ALLEGATIONS BY SOME RL EMPLOYEES OF "THIRD IMMIGRATION" THAT NTS INFLUENCE INCREASED DRAMATICALLY FOLLOWING NOVEMBER '76 REORGANIZATION OF RUSSIAN SERVICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MUNICH 00767 161608Z

3. JUDGING FROM HIS COMMENTS TO POLITICAL OFFICER, WHO DISCUSSED SITUATION AT RL ON "OFF-THE-RECORD" BASIS, DORNBERG'S SOURCES THUS FAR ARE LARGELY EMPLOYEES FROM "THIRD IMMIGRATION."

4. WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT DORNBERG FIRMLY INTENDED TO PUBLISH STORY, POLOFF ATTEMPTED TO PUT TENSIONS BETWEEN "OLD"

AND "NEW" EMIGRE EMPLOYEES AT RL RUSSIAN SERVICE INTO LARGER CONTEXT. POLOFF NOTED THAT TO A VERY LARGE DEGREE, TENSIONS IN RL REFLECT DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF SOVIET IMMIGRATION. POLOFF ALSO EMPHASIZED GREAT INHERENT DIFFICULTY IN MANAGING ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS SUBJECT TO SO MANY OUTSIDE INFLUENCES AND PRESSURES, AND SOME OF WHOSE EMPLOYEES DO NOT UNDERSTAND WESTERN CONCEPTS OF BALANCE, FAIRNESS AND "NEWS OBJECTIVITY."

5. POLOFF NOTED THAT KIND OF STORY DORNBERG MIGHT WRITE COULD HAVE NEGATIVE FALLOUT FOR RL AND SISTER STATION RFE IN THREE AREAS: (A) IN FRG, WHERE IT MIGHT HAVE EFFECT OF ERODING SUPPORT FOR RADIOS; (B) IN USSR AND EE, WHERE IT UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE USED TO FURTHER ALREADY MAJOR PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION EFFORT AGAINST STATIONS; AND (C) IN US CONGRESS, WHERE IT COULD HAVE UNRAVELLING EFFECT ON PRESENT BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR THE STATIONS.
BETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, RADIO STATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MUNICH00767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-0176
Format: TEL
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770353/aaaabtwz.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3c409b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3088521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENSIONS IN RL TO GENERATE NEWS STORY
TAGS: SOPN, US, UR, RL, (DORNBERG, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3c409b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009